THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 39.9 kms. pipeline was procured by ONGC to supply gas to RSEB at Ramgarh from its gas field at Manhera Tibba. Since finalisation of the contract with RSEB is taking abnormally long, the pipeline has been shifted for use in Gujarat where it was required urgently. The same will be replenished, whenever the scheme is implemented for gas supply to RSEB after signing of the contract.

Sick industrial units in Assam

2102. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of sick industrial units in Assam at present;

(b) what are the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) what is the number of industrial units closed down during the last three years in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by the banks in the country is being collected by Reserve Bank of India. As per the latest information available from Reserve Bank of India there are 4 sick units in Non-SSI* sector and 11,438 sick units in the SSI sector in Assam, as at the end of June, 1988.

(b) A number of causes, both external and internal are responsible for industrial sickness in the country. Among the major causes are faulty project planning, management deficiencies, inefficient financial control, diversion of resources, inadequate attention to R&D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, change in market demand, cost and scarcity of raw materials and other inputs and infrastructural constraints.

(c) The data collected by the Reserve Bank of India do not indicate the number of units which have been closed down.

Installation of mini-hydel project in Darjeeling

2103. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the possibility for the installation of Mini-Hydel Projects in hilly regions of Darjeeling; and

(b) whether Government have drawn up any plan in this regard; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Mini-Hydel Project costing upto Rs. five crores is a State Government subfect. Accordingly the State Government of West Bengal has been requested to furnish the requisite information which will be placed on the Table of tre House in due course.

Proposal for air services between Darjeeling and Bagdogra

2104. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council for operating air services between Darjeeling (Tiger Hill) and Bagdogra and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this proposal, if so, the action taken so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

* Non-SSI sick units include medium scale sick industries also as per the definition of sickness adopted by Reserve Bank of India since 1987 onwards.